

Kates Community Initiatives ROSC Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, November 21, 2025

Location: Virtual (ZOOM)

Time: 1:00 PM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Erica Bledsoe (KCI) at 1:05PM.

2. Attendees

- Kimberly Haywood (BBC)
- Cherone Mayes (KCI)
- Daniel Mendez (Far Southside ROSC)
- Ron Bratcher (KCI)
- Kenneth Bell (Chestnut)
- DeShunn Bray (KCI)
- Aaron Saunders (Community Peer)
- Vawnshekia Brown (3 Chords Strong ROSC)

3. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes-DeShunn Bray (KCI)
- Second-Aaron Saunders (Community Peer)

4. Old Business

a. Breaking the Silence-Domestic Violence in Recovery (Celebrating Domestic Violence Month)

- **Date:** Wednesday, October 22, 2025
- **Location:** 7810 South Claremont Ave, Chicago
- **Presenter:** Erica Bledsoe

This presentation explores the complex and often overlooked intersection of domestic violence and recovery. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how intimate partner violence impacts individuals seeking or maintaining recovery from substance use and mental health challenges. The session highlights the role of trauma, power and control, and systemic barriers that can prevent survivors from accessing safety and supportive services.

Erica Bledsoe will guide attendees through recognizing warning signs of abuse, understanding survivor-centered and trauma-informed approaches, and identifying ways professionals, peers, and community members can provide safe, non-judgmental support. The presentation emphasizes empowerment, stigma reduction, and practical strategies for supporting survivors while promoting long-term healing and recovery.

This session is ideal for recovery professionals, peer support specialists, educators, advocates, and community members committed to creating safer, more responsive recovery environments.

b. Statewide ROSC Meeting

- **Hosted by:** Chestnut Healthcare Systems
- **Date:** Tuesday and Wednesday, October 28-29, 2025
- **Time:** 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM on October 28th 8:00 AM-12:00 PM on October 29th.
- **Location:** Holiday Inn Effingham, IL. 1301 Ave of Mid America.
- **Note:** In person Statewide ROSC meeting

The Statewide Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Meeting brings together recovery leaders, service providers, peer support specialists, advocates, and community stakeholders from across the state to collaborate on strengthening recovery-focused services and supports. This meeting provides a shared space to exchange best practices, address gaps in care, and align efforts that promote long-term recovery for individuals, families, and communities.

Participants will engage in discussions centered on recovery-oriented principles, cross-system collaboration, equity, and sustainability. The meeting highlights statewide initiatives, community successes, emerging challenges, and opportunities to enhance coordination among behavioral health, social services, workforce development, and community-based organizations.

The Statewide ROSC Meeting supports collective action, amplifies lived experience, and fosters partnerships that advance a comprehensive, person-centered approach to recovery.

5. New Business

a Community Engagement in Wrightwood/Ashburn and Stigny/Burbank

- Naloxon Training
- Date: Tuesday, December 9, 2025
- Location: Chicago Public Library (Wrightwood-Ashburn Branch) 8530 South Kedzie Ave, Chicago
- Flyer forthcoming

- Naloxon Training
- Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2025
- Location: Prairie Trails Public Library 8449 S Moody Ave, Burbank
- Flyer forthcoming

b. Raw Survey Data

Kates Community Initiatives ROSC Council collects raw survey data to capture direct, unfiltered feedback from community members, service providers, and individuals with lived experience. The purpose of collecting raw data is to better understand community needs, service accessibility, recovery supports, and gaps within the local Recovery-Oriented System of Care.

Surveys are administered through multiple formats, including paper-based surveys, online platforms, and in-person distribution at community events and ROSC meetings. Demographic information is collected to ensure representation across age, gender, race/ethnicity, geographic area, and recovery status, while maintaining participant confidentiality and voluntary participation.

The raw data collected serves as the foundation for data analysis, reporting, and continuous quality improvement. Findings are used to inform program development, guide strategic planning, strengthen partnerships, and support data-driven decision-making that enhances recovery outcomes across the community.

c. Strategic Plan

The strategic plan for Kates Community Initiatives ROSC Council outlines a three-year roadmap (2025–2028) to strengthen a coordinated, community-driven Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC). The plan focuses on enhancing infrastructure, expanding community engagement, improving data collection and evaluation, and increasing access to recovery supports.

It emphasizes the meaningful inclusion of individuals with lived experience, trauma-informed practices, and equity in service delivery. Through clear priorities, actionable goals, and measurable outcomes, the plan guides the Council in fostering partnerships, reducing stigma, and addressing gaps in recovery services. It also establishes a framework for accountability, continuous improvement, and long-term sustainability, ensuring that recovery supports remain responsive to the needs of individuals, families, and the broader community.

- Office hours with the DBHR are forthcoming for further information.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: DeShunn Bray

Second: Aaron Saunders

This meeting was adjourned by Erica Bledsoe (KCI) at 2:05 PM.